

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:JKORNBLUM:DHT

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EUR/CE:DANDERSON

C:RHOPPER

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

EUR/SOV:MGARRISON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, US, UK, FR, UR, GW, GE, WB

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR EXCHANGE OF TELEGRAMS
ON QA ANNIVERSARY

REF: BONN 13394

1. DEPARTMENT'S BASIC CONCERN IN APPROACHING SOVIET
PROPOSAL HAS BEEN TO ACHIEVE WESTERN CONSENSUS WHICH
TAKES ACCOUNT OF INTERESTS OF ALL BONN GROUP MEMBERS.
WE CONTINUE TO SEE POSITIVE ASPECTS TO SOVIET
PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD HAVE THE SOVIETS EXPRESSING
APPROVAL OF THE WAY THE QA HAS WORKED AND WOULD THUS
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UNDERCUT THEIR PROTESTS THAT IT IS BEING CONSTANTLY

VIOLATED. HOWEVER, THE POSITIONS STATED BY THE UK AND THE FRG REPS (REFTEL) INDICATE THAT THE PROBLEMS PERCEIVED BY OUR BRITISH AND GERMAN ALLIES ARE SUCH THAT A POSITIVE REPLY WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ALL BONN GROUP MEMBERS. AT NEXT BONN GROUP MEETING US REP SHOULD THEREFORE JOIN UK AND FRG REPS IN SUPPORTING NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO SOVIETS AFTER RESTATING US VIEW AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.

2. ASSUMING THERE IS AGREEMENT TO REJECT SOVIET IDEA, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HOW ALLIED REFUSAL IS PORTRAYED TO THE USSR. TOO ABRUPT A REPLY COULD LEAD TO A UNILATERAL SOVIET STATEMENT WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE AN ALLIED AND/OR FRG RESPONSE. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT COULD BE EVEN MORE DAMAGING THAN A COORDINATED EXCHANGE AMONG THE FOUR POWERS. OUR PRELIMINARY VIEW IS THAT THE FRG PROPOSAL FOR RELATING OUR REFUSAL TO THE HEATED ATMOSPHERE OF THE FRG ELECTION CAMPAIGN WOULD BE THE BEST WAY OF MAKING CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS THAT ANY STATEMENT ON THE QA AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO EAST-WEST RELATIONS. KISSINGER

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